

Serial No. 09/614,113

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed April 8, 2003 (Paper No. 19) and the Advisory Action mailed June 23, 2003 (Paper No. 21) have been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 22 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 3 through 22 are currently under examination. Claims 1 and 2 were previously withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention and it is proposed that these claims be canceled herein. Claims 3 through 5 and 8 through 16 stand rejected. *See, Advisory Action at ¶ 7.* Claims 6 and 7 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Claims 17 through 22 are allowed. It is proposed that claims 6 and 7 be amended as previously set forth. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the proposed cancellation of claims 1 and 2, the proposed amendments to claims 6 and 7 and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections.

Obviousness Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 5,428,244 to Segawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,438,006 to Chang and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,704,783 to Possin et al.

Claims 3 through 5 and 8 through 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,428,244 to Segawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,438,006 to Chang and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,704,783 to Possin et al. It is proposed that each of claims 3 through 5 and 8 through 16 be canceled by way of the present communication. Accordingly, upon entry of such proposed cancellation, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of these claims will be rendered moot. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

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Objections to Claims 6 and 7/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6 and 7 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. It is proposed that claims 6 and 7 be amended as previously set forth. The proposed amendments place each of claims 6 and 7 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 3. Accordingly, each of claims 6 and 7 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested.

Claims 17 through 22 are allowed.

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ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The proposed cancellation of claim 1 and 2 should be entered by the Examiner because the claims were previously withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. That the claims were not previously canceled from the application is an inadvertent oversight.

The proposed amendments to claims 6 and 7 should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments place the claims in appropriate independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 3. It is indicated that if rewritten in this manner, claim 6 and 7 would be allowable. *See, Final Office Action, second page 2, ¶ 4.*

CONCLUSION

Claims 6, 7 and 17 through 22 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Applicants have determined that a fee is due for one additional independent claim in the amount of \$84.00. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the aforementioned fee and any additional fees to TraskBritt Deposit Account No. 20-1469, referencing attorney docket no. 2269-2915.3US. A copy of this Transmittal Letter is enclosed for deposit account charging purposes.

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Respectfully submitted,

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